

Senate Resolution 84

By: Senator Harp of the 29th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and the foundations
2 associated with the units of the university system to merge Savannah State University with
3 Armstrong Atlantic State University and Albany State University with Darton College; and
4 for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, merging of Savannah State University with Armstrong Atlantic State University
6 and Albany State University with Darton College is necessary to survive this difficult
7 economic climate, end the practice of illegal discrimination, and ensure the preservation of
8 the traditions and objectives of historically black schools; and

9 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is currently facing a budgetary crisis, with calls for
10 dramatic decreases in state agency spending and a scaling back of services throughout the
11 state; and

12 WHEREAS, these four higher education institutions are located in close proximity to each
13 other and offer students similar academic programs and education; and

14 WHEREAS, while these four schools are a quality source for higher education, the delivery
15 method of running four separate institutions that could be easily transformed into two is
16 proving inefficient and wasteful of the public dollar; and

17 WHEREAS, although the Supreme Court of the United States struck down the practice of
18 "separate but equal" systems of public education in 1954 with *Brown v. Board of Education*,
19 several states, including Georgia have continued to maintain systems of higher education that
20 were once legally segregated; and

21 WHEREAS, in 2001, Tennessee State University was merged with the University of
22 Tennessee's Nashville campus as a result of the lawsuit *Geier v. Tennessee*, which alleged

23 illegal discrimination by the State of Tennessee in its maintenance of the historically black
24 college, Tennessee State University; and

25 WHEREAS, similar to the merging of Tennessee State University with the University of
26 Tennessee, the Georgia Board of Regents should merge Savannah State University with
27 Armstrong Atlantic State University and Albany State University with Darton College in
28 order to ensure the state is not in violation of federal law which prohibits a state from
29 maintaining segregated public education facilities; and

30 WHEREAS, concerns that the consolidation of these institutions will lead to the closing of
31 all historically black colleges and universities is unfounded because private higher education
32 institutions may continue to maintain their mission as they please since these universities are
33 not publicly run and funded; and

34 WHEREAS, the merging of two schools that serve the same regional area and similar
35 missions would reduce administrative costs and eliminate the duplication of similar services
36 and programs; and

37 WHEREAS, Georgia should not be in the business of maintaining segregated schools and
38 the Board of Regents must merge Savannah State University with Armstrong Atlantic State
39 University and Albany State University with Darton College in order to close the ugly
40 chapter of segregation in this state's history.

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the Board of Regents of
42 the University System of Georgia and the foundations associated with the units of the
43 university system are urged to merge Savannah State University with Armstrong Atlantic
44 State University and Albany State University with Darton College, so that the surviving
45 universities shall be known as Savannah State University and Albany State University.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
47 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the chancellor of the university system
48 for purposes of distribution to the members of the Board of Regents.